(c) As on 30th September, 1993 there were 11190 Post Offices in Madhya Pradesh and each Post Office serves an average population of 5910.

(d) During the 8th Five Year Plan, Post Offices will be opened at places where there is justification according to norms and subject to availability of funds and allocation of target by the Planning Commission.

STATEMENT

Criteria/Norms fixed for opening of new Branch Post Offices in Rural Areas including Tribal Areas

(1) Population :

(a) In Normal Areas.—3000 population in a group of villages (including the PPO villages).

(b) In the Hilly, Tribal, Desert and Inaccessible Areas.—500 population in an individual village or 1000 population in a group of villages.

(2) Distance :

(a) In Normal Areas.—The minimum distance from the nearest existing Post Office will be 3 Kms.

(b) In Hilly, Tribal, Desert and Inaccessible Areas.—The distance limit will be the same as above except that in Hilly Areas, the minimum distance limit can be relaxed by the Directorate in cases where such relaxation if warranted by special circumstances which should be clearly explained while submitting a proposal.

(3) Anticipated Income :

(a) In Normal Areas.—The minimum anticipated revenue will be 33-1/3 per cent of cost.

(b) In Hilly, Tribal, Desert and Inaccessible Areas.—The minimum anticipated income will be 15 per cent of the cost.

(4) The norms for opening new Departmental Sub Post Offices :

(a) The minimum of work load of the Extra Departmental Branch Post Office should be five hours per day.

(b) The permissible annual loss should be not more than Rs. 2400 in normal rural areas and Rs. 4800 in Tribal and Hilly areas. However, in Urban Areas, the Post Office should be initially self supporting and at the time of the first annual review it should show 5 per cent profit to be eligible for further retention.

(c) The minimum distance between two post offices should be 1.5 Kms. in cities with a population of 20 lakhs and above, and 2 Kms. in other urban areas. No two delivery offices however, should be closer than 5 Kms. from each other. Heads of Circles have powers to relax the distance condition in 10 per cent of the cases.

(d) A Delivery Post Office in Urban Area should have a minimum of 7 Postmen's beats.

TRANSMISSION OF TELEGRAMS IN TAMIL

2485. SHRI S. MADHAVAN : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the languages in which telegrams are transmitted ; and

(b) what are the steps taken to introduce transmission of telegrams in Tamil language ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM) : (a) Transmission of telegrams is permitted in all languages. However, the script should be Roman or Devnagari.

(b) Introduction of telegrams in Tamil Script has been approved and will be introduced on experimental basis.

PROPOSAL FOR INSTALLATION OF REMOTE SWITCHING UNITS

2486. SHRI KAMAL MORARKA : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the C-DOT has developed a remote switching unit ;